Backward districts in Karnataka

1801. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently declared four districts in Karnataka as the most backward districts in the State;

(b) if so, the criteria for choosing only these districts;

(c) the details of all the additional allocation, assistance and relief from Government for these districts; and

(d) the long-term plans towards improving the conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Four districts of Karnataka, namely, Gulbarga, Bidar, Chitradurga and Davangere have been covered under the Backward Districts Initiative of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana.

(b) The backward districts for coverage under the scheme have been identified on the basis of an index of backwardness comprising three parameters with equal weights to each, namely, value of output per agricultural worker, agriculture wage rate and percentage of SC/ST population. The number of districts to be covered in a State is based on the incidence of poverty and hence only four districts of Karnataka qualified for coverage.

(c) Rs. 45 crore is to be provided to the State Government for each district over a period of three years over and above the normal allocation.

(d) Under the scheme, a three year plan is prepared for each district which includes schemes to address the problems of low agricultural productivity, unemployment and to fill critical gaps in physical and social infrastructure.

Opportunities for the Scientists of the Indian origin

1802. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:
SHRI C. PERUMAL:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry had prepared a scheme to provide more